

## Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)

Minutes, regular meeting of June 24, 2013

Present: MTB members Katherine Payne, Secretary Jon Weems, and Chair Kara Hurst, and guests City Manager Jeff Mikorski and Year of the Tree (YOTT) representatives Ann Payne, Gwen Jones, and Alice Meehan.

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:36 in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was lacking, so no votes or other actions would occur.

### Old Business

1. Library Trees/Morgantown Arbor Day. Nobody at the meeting knew the name of the reported donor for two new trees at the library. Kara indicated she would call Bill Marquette to check on a possible donor. Jeff said MTB has close to \$500 remaining in the budget for the year about to end. The plan remains to plant two swamp white/English oak hybrids on Morgantown's Arbor Day, October 12, and also have a pruning talk and demo that morning, the talk in the library and the demo outside nearby. Jeff said he would need a week to check with Terry Hough and Public Works to see if library sidewalk and tree pit issues could be addressed before October 12.
2. Tree Maintenance/MTRP. Dave Barnett's suggestion of a July working meeting focused on recently planted redbuds drew a favorable response. It was agreed to meet at the White Park ball field planting at 4:30 on July 22. Kara also mentioned a Wednesday, August 28 presentation on public administration MTB members might attend in lieu of or in addition to a regular August meeting.
3. Your Community Trust. Brief discussion centered around the possibility of joining with other entities, rather than competing with them for funds.
4. Tree of the Month. Dan is writing a brief red oak piece for July. Jon will write about Kentucky coffeetree for August.
5. Mountaineer Heritage Park/South University Avenue trees. Library Trees. Kara wrote to Tim Terman, with a copy to Mark Wise, concerning the MTB position that existing trees are doing an increasingly good job of screening the view as they grow each year, and no additional planting is urgently needed there now.
6. Contract Labor. Jeff indicated we would know about possible money for contract labor and other MTB expenses after July 1.

### New Business

1. July 4 parade and other YOTT endeavors. YOTT will participate in the July 4 parade, with marchers in tree-themed costumes. YOTT hopes for good participation. YOTT also hopes for more "biggest, baddest tree" nominees, perhaps with neighborhood association involvement. YOTT also floated the idea of letters to the editor of the Dominion-Post about tree issues. The YOTT Facebook page will include info about the Morgantown Arbor Day events.
2. Pruning Workshop. Brief discussion concerned itself with the pruning talk and demo October 12. Dan and Jon were mentioned as possible presenters, perhaps with one taking the lead for the talk, and the other taking the lead for the demo. No decisions were made.

3. Presentation to City Council. There was very brief discussion of Jack Cumming's idea of MTB making a presentation to City Council. Response was generally favorable, with August and September mentioned as possible times.

4. Planting around High Street trees. Some High Street merchants have planted annual flowers in tree wells near their businesses. While this generally looks nice and indicates a welcome interest in beautifying High Street, there is concern that digging in preparation for planting could involve cutting tree roots and thus damaging streetscape trees. The consensus was that most flowers planted to date involved very little digging, but that guidelines might be in order, shared either by a personal visit or by a letter or both. It was again noted that plans call for very few trees in the lower High Street streetscape.

The next meeting was set for 4:30 PM Monday, July 22 at the White Park ball field.

The June meeting ended at 5:55 PM.

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Jon Weems